Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

The present invention provides method for producing trimeric tumor necrosis factor receptors that are potent inhibitors of their cognate ligands. More particularly, the present invention provides polypeptides that comprise: (1) an extracellular domain of the transmembrane activator and CAML (calcium-signal modulating cyclophilin ligand) interactor (TACI), and (2) a trimerizing polypeptide. Suitable TACI extracellular domains include: (1) amino acid residues 30 to 110 of SEQ ID NO:4, (2) amino acid residues 1 to 110 of SEQ ID NO:4, (3) amino acid residues 30 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:4, and (4) amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:4. Illustrative trimerizing polypeptides include a trimerizing fragment of Heat Shock Binding Protein-1. The present invention further provides homotrimeric complexes of fusion proteins comprising a TACI extracellular domain and a trimerizing polypeptide.